

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 12 and 14-18 are pending and presented for examination in this application. Claims 1-5, 12 and 14-18 have been allowed. Claim 6 has been amended above to depend upon allowed claim 1 and claim 19 has been canceled above without prejudice or disclaimer, for keeping this application relatively simple.

At paragraph 1 of the Office Action, Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ota (USP 6,379,777). At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugihara (USP 5,425,118). At paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Koyama (WO 97/35811), with Fig. 10 cited. At page 4, paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ota. At page 5, paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugihara.

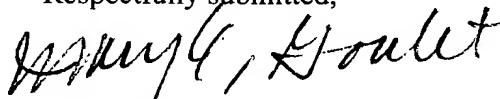
Claim 6 having been amended above to depend upon an allowed claim, and claim 19 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, all rejections are believed to be obviated.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that the allowance of claims 1-5, 12 and 14-18 be repeated, that claim 6 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephone or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



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